

## Unit 8

# Stem-Changing Verbs

Earlier, we discussed the two parts of the infinitive: (1) the **ending** (-ar, -er, or -ir) and (2) the **base** (what is left when the ending is removed). Another word for the base is the **stem**, and with regular verbs, the stem (or base) always remains the same.

The verbs covered in this unit have changes that take place in *both* the stem and the conjugation ending. There are three kinds of stem-changing verbs, and we will consider each separately.

**1. o changes to ue:** The first group of stem-changing verbs involves changing the stem's *o* to *ue* in all forms but *nosotros* and *vosotros*. Their endings for conjugation remain regular. Note the examples:

<b>contar</b> (to count)	<b>mover</b> (to move)	<b>dormir</b> (to sleep)
<b>cuento</b> contamos <b>cuentas</b> contáis <b>cuenta</b> cuentan	<b>muevo</b> movemos <b>mueves</b> movéis <b>mueve</b> mueven	<b>duermo</b> dormimos <b>duermes</b> dormís <b>duerme</b> duermen

One of the features of stem-changing verbs is that the change takes place in the first, second, and third person singular, and the third person plural. If you were to draw a line around these changed verbs, you would come up with something resembling a boot. This shape is often referred to as the "boot of irregularity."

Listed below are several *o* → *ue* verbs:

<b>almorzar</b>	to eat lunch	<b>mostrar</b>	to show
<b>aprobar</b>	to approve	<b>mover</b>	to move (an object)
<b>colgar</b>	to hang (up)	<b>probar</b>	to prove, test, sample, taste
<b>contar</b>	to count	<b>recordar</b>	to remember
<b>costar</b>	to cost	<b>resolver</b>	to solve
<b>devolver</b>	to return (an object)	<b>rogar</b>	to beg, pray
<b>dormir</b>	to sleep	<b>sonar</b>	to sound, ring
<b>encontrar</b>	to find	<b>soñar (con)</b>	to dream (about)
<b>envolver</b>	to wrap (up)	<b>tostar</b>	to toast
<b>morder</b>	to bite	<b>volver</b>	to return
<b>morir</b>	to die	<b>volar</b>	to fly

### ¿Cuál es verdadero o falso para ti?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Yo duermo en el dormitorio.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Yo cuento mi dinero cada día.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. El héroe Superhombre vuela.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Cada mañana tuesto el pan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Normalmente, sueño cuando duermo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Típicamente, almuerzo en casa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A veces mis amigos y yo almorzamos en un restaurante.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Mis amigos me muestran sus casas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. A veces encuentro dinero en el sofá.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. El oro cuesta más que la plata.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Después de hablar por teléfono, cuelgo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Después de leer un libro de la biblioteca, lo devuelvo.

#### **ejercicio**

**I-8-1**

1. I eat lunch. \_\_\_\_\_
2. You eat lunch. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The dog bites. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We approve. \_\_\_\_\_
5. You (*pl. fam.*) beg. \_\_\_\_\_
6. They count the money. \_\_\_\_\_
7. You show the house. \_\_\_\_\_
8. She sleeps. \_\_\_\_\_

9. We solve the problem. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. She wraps the gift. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. I hang up the telephone. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. You return the shirt. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. He dies. \_\_\_\_\_

14. The telephone rings. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. I find the money. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. We return. \_\_\_\_\_

17. Dumbo flies. \_\_\_\_\_

18. Jane toasts the bread. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. We pray for peace. \_\_\_\_\_

20. He dreams about a tiger. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21. I don't remember anything. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

22. The book costs ten dollars. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

23. You move the chairs. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

24. I taste the coffee. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. e changes to ie:** The second group of stem-changing verbs involves changing the stem's *e* to *ie* in all forms except *nosotros* and *vosotros*.

<b>cerrar</b> (to close)		<b>perder</b> (to lose)		<b>hervir</b> (to boil)	
<b>cierro</b>	cerramos	<b>pierdo</b>	perdemos	<b>hiervo</b>	hervimos
<b>cierras</b>	cerráis	<b>pierdes</b>	perdéis	<b>hierves</b>	hervís
<b>cierra</b>	cierran	<b>pierde</b>	pierden	<b>hierve</b>	hierven

Listed below are several *e* → *ie* stem-changing verbs. Note that a few have both an *o* and an *e* in the stem. You can be sure that these are *e* → *ie* stem-changing verbs (and **not** *o* → *ue*) because you will always change the vowel prior to the ending: *comenzar*; *confesar*; *consentir*; *convertir*.

**acertar** to guess, get right  
**advertir** to advise, warn  
**cerrar** to close, shut  
**comenzar** to begin  
**confesar** to confess  
**consentir** to consent  
**convertir** to convert  
**defender** to defend  
**empezar** to begin

**encender** to light, kindle  
**entender** to understand  
**fregar** to scrub, wash dishes  
**hervir** to boil  
**mentir** to lie, tell a lie  
**negar** to deny  
**pensar (en)** to think (about)  
**perder** to lose  
**preferir** to prefer

querer

to want, wish

sugerir

to suggest

referir

to refer

temblar

to tremble

sentir

to feel sorry, regret

tropezar (con)

to stumble, bump into

**¿Cuál es verdadero o falso?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Yo pierdo muchas cosas en mi casa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Entiendo español.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mi clase de español comienza a las diez de la mañana.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Pinocho miente mucho.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Para preparar el café, una persona hierve el agua.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Cerramos la boca para hablar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Un abogado defiende a sus clientes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Cierro las ventanas cuando hace frío.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Pienso mucho en mi familia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mis amigos piensan en mí.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Cada noche friego los platos.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Entre el café y el té, yo prefiero el café.

**ejercicio****I-8-2**

1. I close the door. \_\_\_\_\_
2. You guess. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He washes (scrubs) the dishes. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We advise you. \_\_\_\_\_
5. They deny everything. \_\_\_\_\_
6. He regrets it a lot. \_\_\_\_\_
7. You (*pl. fam.*) begin. \_\_\_\_\_
8. She defends me. \_\_\_\_\_
9. You boil the water. \_\_\_\_\_

10. They lie to me. \_\_\_\_\_
11. You (*pl. fam.*) consent. \_\_\_\_\_
12. She suggests. \_\_\_\_\_
13. We tremble. \_\_\_\_\_
14. I prefer water. \_\_\_\_\_
15. He wants a dog. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Do you understand? \_\_\_\_\_
17. He loses the magazine. \_\_\_\_\_
18. She bumps into the sofa. \_\_\_\_\_
19. They confess. \_\_\_\_\_
20. The program begins. \_\_\_\_\_
21. I think about the war. \_\_\_\_\_
22. You light the candle. \_\_\_\_\_
23. We convert the money to dollars. \_\_\_\_\_
24. I refer the case to the professor. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. *e* changes to *i*:** The third, and final, group of stem-changing verbs involves changing the *e* in the stem to an *i* (except with *nosotros* and *vosotros*). This type is found **only** in *-ir* verbs.

<b>seguir</b> ( <i>to follow</i> )		<b>repetir</b> ( <i>to repeat</i> )	
<b>sigo</b>	seguimos	<b>repito</b>	repetimos
<b>sigues</b>	seguís	<b>repites</b>	repetís
<b>sigue</b>	siguen	<b>repiten</b>	

Below are listed several *e* → *i* verbs. Of the three stem-changing verb groups, this is the smallest.

**bendecir** to bless  
**colegir** to deduce  
**competir** to compete  
**conseguir** to obtain, get  
**corregir** to correct  
**decir** to say, tell  
**despedir** to fire  
**elegir** to elect  
**freír** to fry

**gemir** to groan, moan  
**impedir** to impede, hinder  
**maldecir** to curse  
**medir** to be long, measure  
**pedir** to request, ask for  
**reír** to laugh  
**repetir** to repeat  
**seguir** to follow, continue  
**servir** to serve

### ¿Cuál es verdadero o falso?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. En un restaurante bueno, el mesero nos sirve la comida.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Muchos atletas compiten en las olimpiadas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Frío huevos cada mañana para el desayuno.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Cada cuatro años, elegimos al Presidente.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Un metro mide cien centímetros.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Pinocho siempre dice la verdad.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Un profesor corrige muchos exámenes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. El Papa en el Vaticano bendice a la gente con frecuencia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Esta semana pido un aumento a mi jefe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Cuando quiero información del mundo, consigo un periódico.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Cuando compro un aparato nuevo, siempre sigo las instrucciones antes de usarlo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Muchas veces los padres repiten las instrucciones a los niños.

#### **ejercicio**

**I-8-3**

1. I compete. \_\_\_\_\_
2. You correct the test. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He asks for help. \_\_\_\_\_
4. She laughs a lot. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He gets a job. \_\_\_\_\_
6. We elect the winner. \_\_\_\_\_
7. We fry the potatoes. \_\_\_\_\_
8. You (*pl. fam.*) tell the truth. \_\_\_\_\_
9. You fire the employee. \_\_\_\_\_
10. We request more money. \_\_\_\_\_
11. She groans. \_\_\_\_\_
12. He impedes the progress. \_\_\_\_\_